

**261—59.6(15E) Eligible business.**

**59.6(1) Requirements.** A business which is or will be located, in whole or in part, in an enterprise zone is eligible to be considered to receive incentives and assistance under the Act if the business meets all of the following:

*a. No closure or reduction.* The business has not closed or reduced its operation in one area of the state and relocated substantially the same operation into the enterprise zone. This requirement does not prohibit a business from expanding its operation in an enterprise zone if existing operations of a similar nature in the state are not closed or substantially reduced.

*b. No retail.* The business is not a retail business or a business whose entrance is limited by a cover charge or membership requirement.

*c. Employee benefits.* The business provides all full-time employees with the option of choosing one of the following:

(1) The business pays 80 percent of both of the following:

1. The cost of a standard medical insurance plan, and
2. The cost of a standard dental insurance plan or an equivalent plan.

(2) The business provides the employee with a monetarily equivalent plan to the plan provided for in subparagraph (1) above.

*d. Wage levels.* The business pays an average wage that is at or greater than 90 percent of the lesser of the average county wage or average regional wage, as determined by the department. However, in any circumstance, the wage paid by the business for the project jobs shall not be less than \$7.50 per hour. The local enterprise zone commission may establish higher company eligibility wage thresholds if it so desires.

*e. Job creation.* The business expansion or location must result in at least ten full-time project jobs. The time period allowed to create the jobs and the required period to retain the jobs are described in 261—Chapter 187. For an existing business in counties with a population of 10,000 or less or in cities with a population of 2,000 or less, the commission may adopt a provision that allows the business to create at least five initial jobs with the additional five jobs to be added within five years. The business shall include in its strategic plan the time line for job creation. If the existing business fails to meet the ten-job creation requirement within the five-year period, all incentives and assistance will cease immediately.

*f. Capital investment.* The business makes a capital investment of at least \$500,000. If the business will be occupying a vacant building suitable for industrial use, the fair market value of the building and land, not to exceed \$250,000, as determined by the local enterprise zone commission, shall be counted toward the capital investment requirement. An existing business that has been operating in the enterprise zone for at least five years is exempt from the capital investment requirement of this paragraph of up to \$250,000 of the fair market value, as established by an appraisal, of the building and land. The capital investment amount stated in the business's application must be completed within three years of the effective date of the agreement described in rule 59.9(15E).

*g. Location within zone.* If the business is only partially located in an enterprise zone, the business must be located on contiguous land.

**59.6(2) Additional information.** In addition to meeting the requirements under subrule 59.6(1), an eligible business shall provide the enterprise zone commission with all of the following:

*a.* The long-term strategic plan for the business, which shall include labor and infrastructure needs.

*b.* Information dealing with the benefits the business will bring to the area.

*c.* Examples of why the business should be considered or would be considered a good business enterprise.

*d.* The impact the business will have on other Iowa businesses in competition with it.

*e.* An affidavit that it has not, within the last five years, violated state or federal environmental and worker safety statutes, rules, and regulations or if such violation has occurred that there were mitigating circumstances or such violations did not seriously affect public health or safety or the environment.

**59.6(3) Benefits.** The department reserves the right to negotiate the amount of all program benefits except the following benefits: the new jobs supplemental credit; the value-added property tax exemption; and the refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors.

The following incentives and assistance may be available to an eligible business within a certified enterprise zone, subject to the amount of incentives and assistance negotiated by the department with the eligible business and agreed upon as described in an executed agreement, only when the average wage of all the new project jobs meets the minimum wage requirements of 59.6(1)“d”:

*a. New jobs supplemental credit; alternative credit for housing assistance programs.*

(1) An approved business shall receive a new jobs supplemental credit from withholding in an amount equal to 1½ percent of the gross wages paid by the business, as provided in Iowa Code section 15E.197. The supplemental new jobs credit available under this program is in addition to and not in lieu of the program and withholding credit of 1½ percent authorized under Iowa Code chapter 260E. Additional new jobs created by the project, beyond those that were agreed to in the original agreement as described in 261—59.12(15E), are eligible for the additional 1½ percent withholding credit as long as those additional jobs meet the local enterprise zone wage eligibility criteria and are an integral part or a continuation of the new location or expansion. Approval and administration of the supplemental new jobs credit shall follow existing procedures established under Iowa Code chapter 260E. Businesses eligible for the new jobs training program are those businesses engaged in interstate commerce or intrastate commerce for the purpose of manufacturing, processing, or assembling products, conducting research and development, or providing services in interstate commerce, but exclude retail, health or professional services.

(2) As an alternative to the credit described in subparagraph (1) above, a business may provide a housing assistance program in the form of down payment assistance or rental assistance for employees in new jobs, as defined in Iowa Code section 260E.2, who buy or rent housing located within any certified enterprise zone. A business establishing a housing assistance program shall fund this program through a credit from withholding based on the wages paid to the employees participating in the housing assistance program. An amount equal to 1½ percent of the gross wages paid by the employer to each employee participating in the housing assistance program shall be credited from the payment made by an employer pursuant to Iowa Code section 422.16. If the amount of the withholding by the employer is less than 1½ percent of the gross wages paid to the employees, then the employer shall receive a credit against other withholding taxes due by the employer. The employer shall deposit the amount of the credit quarterly into a housing assistance fund created by the business out of which the business shall provide employees enrolled in the housing assistance program with down payment assistance or rental assistance.

(3) A business may enter into an agreement with the county or city designating the enterprise zone pursuant to Iowa Code section 15E.194 to borrow initial moneys to fund a housing assistance program. The county or city may appropriate from the general fund of the county or city for the assistance program an amount not to exceed an amount estimated by the department of revenue to be equal to the total amount of credit from withholding for employees determined by the business to be enrolled in the program during the first two years. The business shall pay the principal and interest on the loan out of moneys received from the credit from withholding provided for in subparagraph (1). The terms of the loan agreement shall include the principal amount, the interest rate, the terms of repayment, and the term of the loan. The agreement shall require that the down payment assistance or rental assistance provided for employees in new jobs be repaid, in whole or in part, in the event an employee is no longer employed by the business or defaults under the agreement between the business and an employee. The terms of the loan agreement shall not extend beyond the period during which the enterprise zone is certified. The employer shall certify to the department of revenue that the credit from withholding is in accordance with an agreement and shall provide other information the department of revenue may require.

The business shall enter into an agreement with each employee receiving down payment or rental assistance. The agreements shall include terms and conditions of the receipt of the assistance and repayment provisions should the employee no longer work for the business or default under the terms of the agreement.

(4) An employee participating in the housing assistance program will receive full credit for the amount withheld as provided in Iowa Code section 422.16.

(5) The 1½ percent supplemental credit authorized under this rule may be apportioned between the 260E training programs described in subparagraph (1) and the down payment or rental assistance program described in subparagraph (2).

*b. Value-added property tax exemption.*

(1) The county or city for which an eligible enterprise zone is certified may exempt from property taxation all or a portion of the value added to the property upon which an eligible business locates or expands in an enterprise zone and which is used in the operation of the eligible business. This exemption shall be authorized by the city or county that would have been entitled to receive the property taxes, but is electing to forego the tax revenue for an eligible business under this program. The amount of value added for purposes of Iowa Code section 15E.196 shall be the amount of the increase in assessed valuation of the property following the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone.

(2) If an exemption is made applicable only to a portion of the property within an enterprise zone, there must be approved uniform criteria which further some planning objective established by the city or county zone commission. These uniform criteria must also be approved by the eligible city or county. Examples of acceptable “uniform criteria” that may be adopted include, but are not limited to, wage rates, capital investment levels, types and levels of employee benefits offered, job creation requirements, and specific targeted industries. “Planning objectives” may include, but are not limited to, land use, rehabilitation of distressed property, or brownfields remediation.

(3) The exemption may be allowed for a period not to exceed ten years beginning the year value added by improvements to real estate is first assessed for taxation in an enterprise zone.

(4) This value-added property tax exemption may be used in conjunction with other property tax exemptions or other property tax-related incentives such as property tax exemptions that may exist in Urban Revitalization Areas or Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Property tax exemptions authorized under Iowa Code chapter 427B may not be used, as stated in Iowa Code section 427B.6, in conjunction with property tax exemptions authorized by city council or county board of supervisors within the local enterprise zone.

*c. Investment tax credit and insurance premium tax credit.*

(1) Investment tax credit. An eligible business may claim an investment tax credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15.333. A corporate income tax credit may be claimed of up to a maximum of 10 percent of the new investment which is directly related to new jobs created by the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone. The credit may be used against a tax liability imposed for individual income tax, corporate income tax, franchise tax, or against the moneys and credits tax imposed in Iowa Code section 533.24.

1. Five-year amortization period. For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, the tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department, in consultation with the eligible business, will define. The five-year amortization period will be specified in the agreement referenced in rule 261—59.13(15E).

2. Flow-through of tax credits. If the business is a partnership, subchapter S corporation, limited liability company, cooperative organized under Iowa Code chapter 501 or 501A and filing as a partnership for federal tax purposes, or an estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed.

3. Seven-year carryforward. Any credit in excess of tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

4. Refund of unused tax credit. Subject to prior approval by the department in consultation with the department of revenue, an eligible business whose project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or biotechnology-related processes may elect to apply for a refund for all or a portion of an unused tax credit.

5. IRS Section 521. For purposes of this paragraph, an eligible business includes a cooperative as described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code which is not required to file an Iowa corporate income tax return.

6. Maximum capital expenditures stated in agreement. The business participating in the enterprise zone may not claim an investment tax credit for capital expenditures above the amount stated in the

agreement described in 261—59.12(15E). An eligible business may instead, prior to project completion, seek to amend the contract, allowing the business to receive an investment tax credit for additional capital expenditures.

(2) Insurance premium tax credit. The insurance premium tax credit benefit is available for a business that submits an application for enterprise zone participation on or after July 1, 1999. If the business is an insurance company, the business may claim an insurance premium tax credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15E.196.

1. Five-year amortization period. For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, the tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department, in consultation with the eligible business, will define. The five-year amortization period will be specified in the agreement referenced in rule 261—59.13(15E).

2. Credit of up to 10 percent of new investment. An Iowa insurance premium tax credit may be claimed of up to a maximum of 10 percent of the new investment which is directly related to new jobs created by the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone.

3. Seven-year carryforward. Any credit in excess of tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

4. Maximum capital expenditures as stated in agreement. The business participating in the enterprise zone may not claim an investment tax credit for capital expenditures above the amount stated in the agreement described in 261—59.12(15E). An eligible business may instead seek to amend the contract, allowing the business to receive an investment tax credit for additional capital expenditures, or may elect to submit a new application within the enterprise zone.

(3) Eligible capital expenditures. For purposes of this rule, the capital expenditures eligible for the investment tax credit or the insurance premium tax credit under the enterprise zone program are:

1. The costs of machinery and equipment as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1) “e” and “j” purchased for use in the operation of the eligible business, the purchase prices of which have been depreciated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

2. The cost of improvements made to real property which is used in the operation of the eligible business; and

3. The annual base rent paid to a third-party developer for a period equal to the term of lease agreement but not to exceed ten years, provided that the cumulative costs of the base rent payments for that period do not exceed the cost of the land and the third-party developer’s costs to build or renovate the building. Annual base rent shall be considered only when the project includes the construction of a new building or the major renovation of an existing building. The eligible business shall enter into a lease agreement with the third-party developer for a minimum of five years.

(4) Real property. For business applications received on or after July 1, 1999, for purposes of the investment tax credit claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333 and for business applications received on or after May 26, 2000, for purposes of the insurance premium tax credit claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333A, subsection 1, the purchase price of real property and any existing buildings and structures located on the real property will also be considered a new investment in the location or expansion of an eligible business. However, if within five years of purchase, the eligible business sells or disposes of, razes or otherwise renders unusable the land, buildings, or other existing structures for which tax credit was claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333 or under Iowa Code section 15.333A, subsection 1, the income tax liability, or where applicable the insurance premium tax liability, of the eligible business for the year in which the property is sold, disposed of, razed, or otherwise rendered unusable shall be increased by one of the following amounts:

1. One hundred percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within one year after being placed in service.

2. Eighty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within two years after being placed in service.

3. Sixty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within three years after being placed in service.

4. Forty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within four years after being placed in service.

5. Twenty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within five years after being placed in service.

(5) Refunds. An eligible business whose project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products and whose application was approved by the department on or after May 26, 2000, or whose project primarily involves biotechnology-related processes and whose application was approved by the department on or after July 1, 2005, may elect to receive as a refund all or a portion of an unused investment tax credit.

1. The department will determine whether a business's project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or biotechnology-related processes. Effective July 1, 2001, an eligible business that elects to receive a refund shall apply to the department for a tax credit certificate.

2. The business shall apply for a tax credit certificate using the form provided by the department. Requests for tax credit certificates will be accepted between May 1 and May 15 of each fiscal year. Only those eligible businesses that have completed projects before the May 1 filing date may apply for a tax credit certificate. For a cooperative described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, the department shall require the cooperative to submit a list of members whom the cooperative wishes to receive a tax credit certificate for their prorated share of ownership. The cooperative shall submit its list in a computerized electronic format that is compatible with the system used or designated by the department. The computerized list shall, at a minimum, include the name, address, social security number or taxpayer identification number, business telephone number and ownership percentage, carried out to six decimal places, of each cooperative member eligible for a tax credit certificate. The cooperative shall also submit a total dollar amount of the unused investment tax credits for which the cooperative's members are requesting a tax credit certificate.

3. The department will make public by June 1 of each year the total number of requests for tax credit certificates and the total amount of requested tax credit certificates that have been submitted. The department will issue tax credit certificates within a reasonable period of time.

4. The department shall not issue tax credit certificates which total more than \$4 million during a fiscal year. If the department receives applications for tax credit certificates in excess of \$4 million, the applicants shall receive certificates for a prorated amount. In such a case, the tax credit requested by an eligible business will be prorated based upon the total amount of requested tax credit certificates received during the fiscal year. This proportion will be applied to the amount requested by each eligible business to determine the amount of the tax credit certificate that will be distributed to each business for the fiscal year. For example, if an eligible business submits a request in the amount of \$1 million and the total amount of requested tax credit certificates equals \$8 million, the business will be issued a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$500,000:

$$\frac{\$4 \text{ million}}{\$8 \text{ million}} = 50\% \times \$1 \text{ million} = \$500,000.$$

5. Tax credit certificates shall not be valid until the tax year following project completion. The tax credit certificates shall not be transferred except in the case of a cooperative as described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. For such a cooperative, the individual members of the cooperative are eligible to receive the tax credit certificates. Tax credit certificates shall be used in tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2001. A business shall not claim a refund of unused investment tax credit unless a tax credit certificate issued by the department is attached to the taxpayer's tax return for the tax year during which the tax credit is claimed. Any unused investment tax credit in excess of the amount of the tax credit certificate issued by the department may be carried forward for up to seven years after the qualifying asset is placed in service or until the eligible business's unused investment tax credit is depleted, whichever occurs first. An eligible business may apply for tax credit certificates once each year for up to seven years after the qualifying asset is placed in service or until the eligible business's unused investment tax credit is depleted, whichever occurs first. For example, an eligible business which

completes a project in October 2001 and has an investment tax credit of \$1 million may apply for a tax credit certificate in May 2002. If, because of the proration of the \$4 million of available refundable credits for the fiscal year, the business is awarded a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$300,000, the business may claim the \$300,000 refund and carry forward the unused investment tax credit of \$700,000 for up to seven years or until the credit is depleted, whichever occurs first.

*d. Research activities credit.* A business is eligible to claim a research activities credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15.335. This benefit is a corporate tax credit for increasing research activities in this state during the period the business is participating in the program. For purposes of claiming this credit, a business is considered to be “participating in the program” for a period of ten years from the date the business’s application was approved by the department. This credit equals 6½ percent of the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. The state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percent equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in this state to total qualified research expenditures. This credit is in addition to the credit authorized in Iowa Code section 422.33. If the business is a partnership, subchapter S corporation, limited liability company, or an estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed. Any tax credit in excess of the tax liability shall be refunded to the eligible business with interest computed under Iowa Code section 422.25. In lieu of claiming a refund, the eligible business may elect to have the overpayment credited to its tax liability for the following year.

For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, “research activities” includes the development and deployment of innovative renewable energy generation components manufactured or assembled in Iowa. A renewable energy generation component will no longer be considered innovative when more than 200 megawatts of installed effective name plate capacity has been achieved. Research activities credits awarded under this program and the high quality job creation program for innovative renewable energy generation components shall not exceed a total of \$1 million.

*e. Refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors or subcontractors.*

(1) A business is eligible for a refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors as authorized in Iowa Code section 15.331A.

1. An eligible business may apply for a refund of the sales, service and use taxes paid under Iowa Code chapters 422 and 423 for gas, electricity, water or sewer utility services, goods, wares, or merchandise, or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility within the enterprise zone.

2. Taxes attributable to intangible property and furniture and furnishings shall not be refunded. To receive a refund of the sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors or subcontractors, the eligible business must, within one year after project completion, make an application to the department of revenue. For new manufacturing facilities, “project completion” means the first date upon which the average annualized production of finished product for the preceding 90-day period at the manufacturing facility operated by the eligible business within the enterprise zone is at least 50 percent of the initial design capacity of the facility. For existing facilities, “project completion” means the date of completion of all improvements included in the enterprise zone project.

(2) If the project is the location or expansion of a warehouse or distribution center in the enterprise zone, the approved business may be entitled to a refund of sales and use taxes attributable to racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. The approved business shall, within one year of project completion, make written application to the department for a refund. The application must include the refund amount being requested and documentation such as invoices, contracts or other documents which substantiate the requested amount. The department, in consultation with the department of revenue, will validate the refund amount and instruct the department of revenue to issue the refund.

The aggregate combined total amount of refunds and tax credits attributable to sales and use taxes on racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment issued by the department to businesses approved for high quality job creation program, new capital investment program, new jobs and income program, and enterprise zone program benefits shall not exceed \$500,000 during a fiscal year. Tax refunds and tax

credits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. If an approved business's application does not receive a refund or tax credits due to the limitation of \$500,000 per fiscal year, the approved business's application shall be considered in the succeeding fiscal year.

*f. New jobs insurance premium tax credit.* Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

*g. Limitation on receiving incentives.* Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

**59.6(4) Duration of benefits.** An enterprise zone designation shall remain in effect for ten years following the date of certification. Any state or local incentives or assistance that may be conferred must be conferred before the designation expires. However, the benefits of the incentive or assistance may continue beyond the expiration of the zone designation.

**59.6(5) Application review and submittal.** Eligible businesses shall first submit applications for enterprise zone program benefits to the local enterprise zone commission. Commission-approved applications shall be forwarded to the department for final review and approval.